

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) A portable information apparatus comprising:

a main display;

a sub-display provided independently of the main display and at a position where the sub-display is externally visible when the main display is in a closed position;

detection means which detects a system abnormality of the portable information apparatus; and

display control means which displays a message indicating a system abnormality on the sub-display when the system abnormality is detected by the detection means.

27. (Previously presented) A portable information apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the detection means detects a low battery state and temperature abnormality of the portable information apparatus, and an abnormal state of an application program run by the portable information apparatus.

28. (Previously presented) A portable information apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising designation means which designates display modes of messages to be displayed on the sub-display, and

wherein the display control means displays the message on the sub-display in accordance with the modes designated by the designation means.

29. (Previously presented) A portable information apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the display modes include designation of a color of a back light of the sub-display and a command to blink the message.

30. (Previously presented) A portable information apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising means for restoring a window shown on the sub-display to the window which was shown before the message was displayed, after the message has been displayed on the sub-display.

31. (Previously presented) A portable information apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising display means which displays a setup window used to set at least one of a display time and contents of the message, and

wherein the display control means displays the message based on a setup value set with the setup window on the display means.

32. (Previously presented) A portable information apparatus comprising:

- a main display;
- a sub-display provided independent of the main display and at a position where the sub-display is externally visible when the main display is in a closed position;
- a jog device which generates a plurality of types of events; and
- display control means which displays a name of an application program to be started in response to the event generated by the jog device on the sub-display in one of a power-off state, a sleeping state, and a main display off state.

33. (Previously presented) A portable information apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising customizing means which customizes the number of application programs, and

- wherein the display control means displays the application programs customized by the customizing means.

34. (Previously presented) A portable information apparatus according to claim 32, wherein when an application program of the application programs displayed on the sub-display is started by the jog device, the display control means displays information other than the name of the started application program on the sub-display.

35. (Previously presented) A portable information apparatus according to claim 32, wherein when the application program started by the jog device has finished, the display control means displays status information on the sub-display.

36. (Previously presented) A portable information apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising detection means which detects a system abnormality of the portable information apparatus,

wherein when the detection means detects a system abnormality, the display control means displays a message indicating the system abnormality on the sub-display.

37. (Previously presented) A portable information apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising detection means which detects information to be notified to a user,

wherein when the detection means detects information to be notified to a user, the display control means displays a message indicating the detected information on the sub-display.

38. (Previously presented) A portable information apparatus according to claim 37, further comprising means for restoring a window shown on the sub-display to the window which was shown before the message was displayed, after the message is displayed on the sub-display.

39. (Previously presented) A message display method for a portable information apparatus which comprises a main display and a sub-display provided independent of the main display and at a position where the sub-display is externally visible when the main display is in a closed position, the method comprising:

detecting a system abnormality; and

displaying a message indicating the detected system abnormality on the sub-display.

40. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the system abnormality includes at least one of a low battery state and a temperature abnormality of the portable information apparatus and an abnormality of an application program run by the portable information apparatus.

41. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 39, further comprising designating a display mode of a message to be displayed on the sub-display,

wherein the message to be displayed is displayed on the sub-display in accordance with the designated mode.

42. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 39, further comprising restoring a window shown on the sub-display to the window which was shown before the message was displayed, after the message is displayed on the sub-display.

43. (Previously presented) A message display method for a portable information apparatus which comprises a main display, a sub-display provided independent of the main display and at a position where the sub-display is externally visible when the main display is in a closed position, and a jog device which generates a plurality of types of events, the method comprising:

detecting an event generated by the jog device; and

displaying a name of an application program to be started in response to the event generated by the jog device on the sub-display in one of a power-off state, a sleeping state, and a main display off state.

44. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 43, further comprising:

customizing the number of application programs; and

displaying the customized application programs.

45. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 43, further comprising, when an application program of the application programs displayed on the sub-display is started by the jog device, displaying information other than the name of the started application program on the sub-display.

46. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 43, further comprising displaying status information on the sub-display when the application program started by the jog device has finished.

47. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 43, further comprising:

detecting a system abnormality of the portable information apparatus; and
when the system abnormality is detected, displaying a message indicating the system abnormality on the sub-display.

48. (Previously presented) A portable information apparatus comprising:

- a main display;
- a sub-display provided at a position where the sub-display is externally visible when the main display is in a closed position;
- detection means which detects a system abnormality of the portable information apparatus;
- open/close state detection means which detects an open/close state of the main display; and
- display control means which displays a message indicating the detected system abnormality on the sub-display when the open/close state detection means detects that the main display is in a closed state, and which displays a message indicating the detected system abnormality on the main display when the open/close state detection means detects that the main display is in an open state,
- wherein when the message is displayed on the main display, the display control means opens a new window to display the message, and
- when the message is displayed on the sub-display, the display control means displays the message instead of the information which is already displayed on the sub-display.

49. (Previously presented) A message display method for a portable information apparatus which comprises a main display and a sub-display provided independent of the main display and at a position where the sub-display is externally visible when the main display is in a closed position, the method comprising:

detecting a system abnormality of the portable information apparatus;

detecting an open/close state of the main display;

displaying a message indicating the detected system abnormality on the sub-display when the open/close state detection means detects that the main display is in a closed state, and displaying a message indicating the detected system abnormality on the main display when the open/close state detection means detects that the main display is in an open state;

when the message is displayed on the main display, opening a new window to display the message; and

when the message is displayed on the sub-display, displaying the message instead of the information which is already displayed on the sub-display.

50. (Previously presented) An information apparatus comprising:

- a body;
- a main display which can be opened and closed relative to the body;
- a sub-display provided in the body, which is exposed regardless of an open/close state of the main display;
- selection means which selects a predetermined function; and
- display control means which displays information concerning the selected predetermined function on the sub-display.

51. (Previously presented) An information apparatus according to claim 50, wherein the display control means displays the information in one of a power-off state, a sleeping state and a main display off state.

52. (Previously presented) An information apparatus according to claim 50, further comprising customizing means which customizes the number of application programs, and

wherein the display control means displays the application programs customized by the customizing means.

53. (Previously presented) An information apparatus according to claim 50, wherein when an application program of the application programs displayed on the sub-display is started by a jog device, the display control means displays information other than the name of the started application program on the sub-display.

54. (Previously presented) An information apparatus according to claim 50, wherein the selection means selects a CD reproducing function, and the display control means displays information concerning the CD.

55. (New) A portable information apparatus comprising:
a main display;
a sub-display provided independent of the main display and at a position where the sub-display is externally visible when the main display is in a closed position;
an operation device that generates a plurality of types of events; and
display control means that displays a name of an application program to be started in response to the event generated by the operation device on the sub-display in one of a power-off state, a sleeping state, and a main display off state.

56. (New) A message display method for a portable information apparatus which comprises a main display, a sub-display provided independent of the main display and at a position where the sub-display is externally visible when the main display is in a closed position, and an operation device that generates a plurality of types of events, the method comprising:

detecting an event generated by the operation device; and

displaying a name of an application program to be started in response to the event generated by the operation device on the sub-display in one of a power-off state, a sleeping state, and a main display off state.